

Embargoed, Thursday 17 September, 10am (BST)

AWARD-WINNING INDUSTRY-BACKED COMPUTING PROGRAMME LAUNCHES IN NIGERIAN SCHOOLS THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

Thursday 17 September - Digital Schoolhouse, Ukie's flagship computing programme, has gone international for the first time ever this academic year.

Digital Schoolhouse (DSH), a UK-based programme which uses play-based learning to engage the next generation of pupils and teachers, has partnered with Kucheza Gaming to deliver Computer Science lessons to young people in Nigeria from September.

Originally seed-funded by the Mayor of London's Schools of Excellence fund and delivered by the UK game trade body Ukie, the not-for-profit DSH has now reached 86,000 pupils across the country and seeks to replicate its impact by introducing games-centric resources and 'unplugged' activities (requiring no technology) to young people in Nigeria.

Kucheza Gaming is an Africa focused esports and games company for ages 6 -18 years which harnesses "play" as a force for youth development and empowerment in Africa. Reflected by their namesake "Kucheza" - a Swahili word meaning "play" or "to play" - the organisation demonstrates a new level of value in gaming,

Educating young people through esports sparked the collaboration, where alongside DSH, Kucheza Gaming successfully deployed their own esports tournament in Lagos earlier this year. Drawing interest from the likes of Nickelodeon and the BBC, the tournament fuelled appetite for more curriculum-based activities to improve digital skills and spotlight careers opportunities in Nigeria.

Going forwards, this partnership will provide Nigerian pupils with access to meaningful opportunities that enable digital skills development and showcase a breadth of related careers in tandem. Plans include an international game jam for UK and Nigerian schools which is hoped to facilitate a rich cultural exchange of knowledge and skills.

Bukola Akingbade, founder and CEO of Kucheza Gaming said:

“Creative industries have a pivotal role to play in building future digital skills in a continent like Africa. With an average age of 19.5 years, the continent is home to the world’s youngest population and this trend will continue to accelerate.

The widening gap between population growth and education deserves increased attention and resolution, and we believe that this partnership with Digital Schoolhouse will allow us to reach more African children through esports and computing.”

Shahneila Saeed, head of education at Ukie and director of Digital Schoolhouse said:

“We’re thrilled to have Kucheza Gaming on board to make our dream of rolling out the programme internationally, a reality.

Since our inception, the programme has received support from industry heavyweights to enable major impact in UK schools. Through this partnership, we hope to continue to use play-based learning to upskill and empower young people in Africa - the youngest and fastest growing continent.”

-ENDS-

Contacts

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About Digital Schoolhouse

The not-for-profit Digital Schoolhouse programme, together with Nintendo UK, uses play-based learning to engage the next generation of pupils and teachers with the Computing curriculum. Digital Schoolhouse is delivered by the UK games industry trade body Ukie and is backed by the creative digital industries and government. Sponsors include PlayStation®, SEGA, Ubisoft and Outright Games.

Website: digitalschoolhouse.org.uk

Twitter: [@DigSchoolhouse](https://twitter.com/DigSchoolhouse)

Facebook: [Digital Schoolhouse](https://www.facebook.com/DigitalSchoolhouse)

YouTube: www.youtube.com/DigitalSchoolhouse

About Ukie

Ukie is the not for profit trade body for the UK games and interactive entertainment industry. Its mission is to turn the UK into the best place to make, sell and play games in the world.

It represents nearly 500 businesses working across the UK, including game developers, publishers, platforms and service providers, in government. This includes industry advocacy work, managing industry press relations and running trade missions, as well as providing member services.

Ukie also runs a number of initiatives that further support the games ecosystem. This includes education initiatives such as Digital Schoolhouse, the responsible play site www.askaboutgames.com, the Video Game Ambassador's careers scheme and events such as the London Games Festival.

Website: ukie.org.uk

About Kucheza Gaming

Kucheza Gaming is an Africa focused esports and games company for 6 - 18 year olds (primary and secondary schools). "Kucheza" is a Swahili word meaning "play" or "to play". At Kucheza, we embrace "play" as a force for youth development and empowerment in Africa, the youngest and fastest growing continent.

By building a network of school leagues and teams, focusing on mobile esports, showcasing career pathways and embedding a playful computing curriculum, we are catering to the demands of African consumers and demonstrating a new level of value in gaming.

The company successfully hosted its inaugural School Esports Open in the 2019/2020 session with coverage from Nickelodeon and the BBC.

Website: kuchezagaming.com